

F. Douglass
(Private)

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Mrs M^r Chapman

Kilmarnock
Scotland.

29th March
1846

My dear Madam,

I take up my pen to thank you for the 'Liberty bell' and the kind note which you were pleased to send me by the Cambrian. I have not yet found time to read the Liberty bell but hope to do so soon. My time is greatly taken up with immediate engagements growing necessarily out of my present contact with friends here. I find that in order to make my visit of service to our sacred cause at home, I must as far as possible concentrate my strength upon those circles in whose midst I find my self placed. I am trying to preach and practice a genuine anti-slavery life - turning neither to the right or left, and I think not without success. I think you may safely calculate on seeing some proof of this at your next Bazaar. At the suggestion of Mr R. D. Webb I have inserted an appeal in behalf of the Bazaar in my narrative, so that wherever the narrative goes - there also goes an appeal in behalf of the O. N. or organized Anti-Slavery Bazaar. One of the first objects in my lectures has been to make that Bazaar prominent and increase its

by increasing its means - I have done so from no
sordid motive, but because I believe it to be a
powerful instrument in affording means to
carry on our important antislavery machinery.
I say this the more freely - because, though I consider my-
self as forming a humble part of that machinery,
I have never received any pecuniary aid directly
from it - I have never absolutely needed any such
aid from it. I have even managed to get on - and keep
in the field with very little means - lived in a small house
paid a small rent, indulged in no luxuries - glad to get
the common necessaries of life - and have followed on
with a glad heart and willing mind - in the thin but
brave ranks of our noble pioneer William Lloyd Garrison.
Just before leaving the United States for this Country - my
warm and excellent friend J. A. Buffum - aware of my
poverty, stepped forward with his characteristic liberality
and kindly offered to collect a sufficient sum to pay
my passage to this land. He tried and succeeded in
getting 68 dollars. Just 2 dollars short of my expenses
in the steamer - I brought with me three hundred and
fifty dollars, money which I had saved from the
sale of my narrative. For means to sustain me while
here I have relied - and still rely mainly upon the
sale of my narrative. And thus far I have had
reason to complain, having already disposed of 2-000
copies. I have mentioned these facts and made these
remarks - because I have felt somewhat grieved
to see by a letter from you to Mr. R. D. Webb of Dublin
that you betray a want of confidence in me as a
man, and an abolitionist, utterly inconsistent with all
the facts in the history of my connection with the Antislavery

enterprise. In that letter you were pointing out to ^{the necessity} Mr. Webb of
his keeping a watch over myself and friend Mr. Buffum - but
as Mr. Buffum was rich - and I poor while there was little danger
of but what Mr. Buffum would stand firm. I might be bought up
by the London committee, Now dear Madam, you do me great in-
justice - by such comparisons they are direct insinuations, and
when whispered in the ear of a stranger to whom I look up as a
friend they are very embarrassing; Up to the time of hearing
Mr. Webb read that letter I supposed I shared your confidence
in common with that of the other members of the Committee
at Boston; I am disappointed. I can assure you dear Madam
that you have mistaken me altogether if you suppose that
either the love of money - or the hate of poverty will drive me
from the ranks of the old organized antislavery Society.
But had I no more confidence in them, than you seem to
have in me - I would not take a second breath before leaving
them. I have withstood the allurements of New organization
liberty party - and no organization at home. Why should
I not withstand the London committee, you have trusted me
or seemed to do so, at home, why distrust me or seem
to do so abroad. Of one thing I am certain, and that is
I never gave you any just cause to distrust me.
and if I am to be watched over for evil rather than for
good - by my professed friends I can say with propriety
save me from my friends, and I will take care of my
enemies. Had your kind friend previous to my leaving
America given me face to face that advice and friendly
counsel which your long experience, and superior wisdom
has richly enabled you to do, or written to me a kind letter
as did my friend Mr. Phillips warning me against the
London committee, my feelings toward you, ^{as to him} would
be those of ardent gratitude. If you wish to drive me
from the ~~at~~ Antislavery Society, put me under overseer-
ship and the work is done. Let some one to watch over
me - for evil and let them be so simple minded as to
inform me of their office, and the last blow is struck.

I have said what I now have, because I wish you to know
just how I feel toward you - I wish to be candid with my friend
It would have been quite easy to have passed the matter over
had you not sent me the liberty bell, and made ^{it} my duty
to write to you. When I parted from you at the Antislavery
office on the morning of the 16 August 1845. I felt on leaving
what you expected, a faithful discharge of my duties a
broad - I went forth feeling my self armed with the
Confidence reposed in me by yourself and the
Board generally - ~~reposed~~ to do my duty. And although
not sustained as I supposed myself to be, I can thus far
challenge the strictest scrutiny in to all my movements
I have neither compromised my self nor the Character
of my friends. But enough.

The cause goes nobly on - our efforts - that is the efforts
of friends Wright and Buffum and my own have
mainly directed toward exposing the conduct of
the free Church of Scotland - in holding fellowship with
slave holders - and taking slave money to build free
Churches. The Antislavery Committee at Glasgow
have succeeded in getting George Thompson to join
us - in ~~some~~ an effort to get the free Church to
send back the money.

Very respectfully

Yours

Frederick Douglass

P.S. Will you do me the kindness to send the
enclosed note to H. W. Williams, the former
agent of the Antislavery office.

Yours &c. &c.